



**MAINE DOT**  
Maine Department of Transportation

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**TRAFFIC CHANGES BEGIN FEBRUARY 17<sup>TH</sup> TO  
PREPARE FOR AUGUSTA MEMORIAL BRIDGE CLOSURE**

**AUGUSTA** – MaineDOT will implement a variety of changes to traffic patterns in and around downtown Augusta beginning Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup> in preparation for the three-month closure of Memorial Bridge. Though full closure of the bridge begins on Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, motorists are encouraged to begin using the Third Bridge or the Gardiner-Randolph Bridge now. “Our hope is that people have a chance to get used to the new routes and begin changing their driving habits before the bridge closes. Phasing in these changes should help to minimize congestion and save time,” said Wayne Frankhauser, MaineDOT Project Manager.

Key traffic changes include an island at the intersection of Arsenal Street and Bridge Street to prevent left-hand turns into and out of Arsenal Street. This conversion will occur after 3 PM Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup> to minimize the initial impact on shift changes at Maine General and Riverview Hospitals. Other key changes (shown on maps at [www.mainedot.gov](http://www.mainedot.gov)) include:

- Motorists traveling to downtown on Northern Avenue will be diverted to Commercial Street. All downtown traffic crossing the Father Curran Bridge to go east will be required to do so from Water Street, where the signal will allow a continuous right hand turn.
- The section of Bridge Street between Father Curran Bridge and Commercial Street will become one way heading up the hill toward State Street.
- The new traffic signal at the intersection of Bridge Street and Commercial Street will facilitate the traffic being detoured from Northern Avenue up to Commercial

Street. All traffic heading down Bridge Street from State Street will have to turn right onto Commercial.

There are also changes in downtown crosswalks, and Frankhauser encourages caution for both motorists and pedestrians. “There are nearly 1,000 employees in downtown Augusta, and they’ll be getting used to new crosswalks and new parking locations in the coming weeks. We want to remind everyone to drive with caution, especially at dusk, a peak travel time for motorists and pedestrians leaving work.” There are also concerns for pedestrians crossing to go the “Bread of Life Kitchen” because of the right-hand turn from the Father Curran Bridge onto Northern Avenue which will be one-way.

MaineDOT is also encouraging travelers to save time and minimize traffic congestion by carpooling, traveling during off-peak hours, and using alternate routes. Augusta’s new Third Bridge is accessible from Route 3 off Exit 113 on I-95. To the south, the Bridge between Gardiner and Randolph is the best route. The Father Curran Bridge should be reserved for those who work or do business in downtown Augusta, which is open for business. Additional downtown customer parking has been created on the rail bed above Commercial Street.

For maps, directions and more information, the public can go to [www.mainedot.gov](http://www.mainedot.gov), where they can also sign up for email alerts. “We know these three months are not going to be convenient, but the Augusta Memorial Bridge needs essential reconstruction. We just hope that people remember to drive safely and courteously,” said Frankhauser.

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